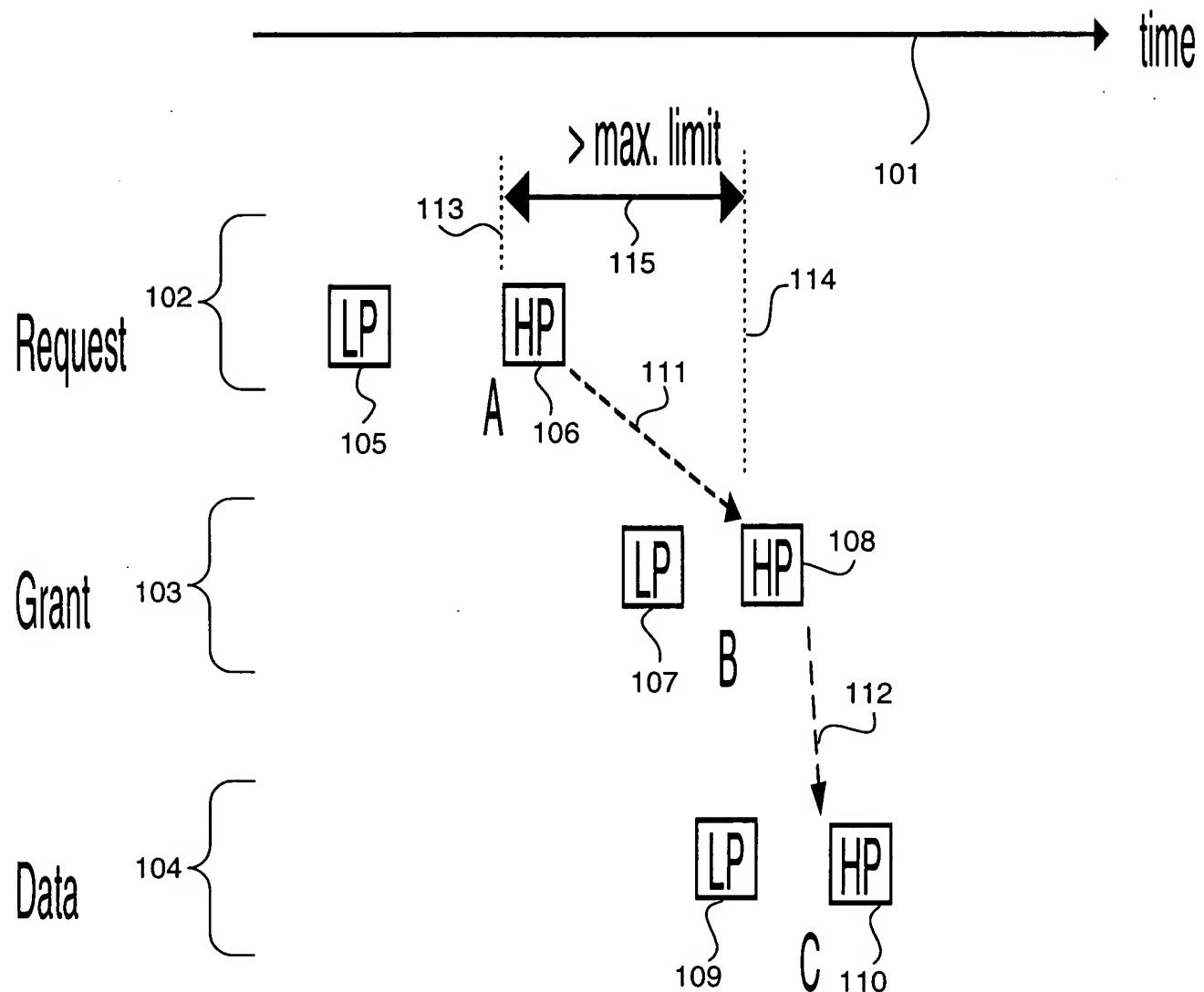


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**FIG. 1**  
**PRIOR ART**

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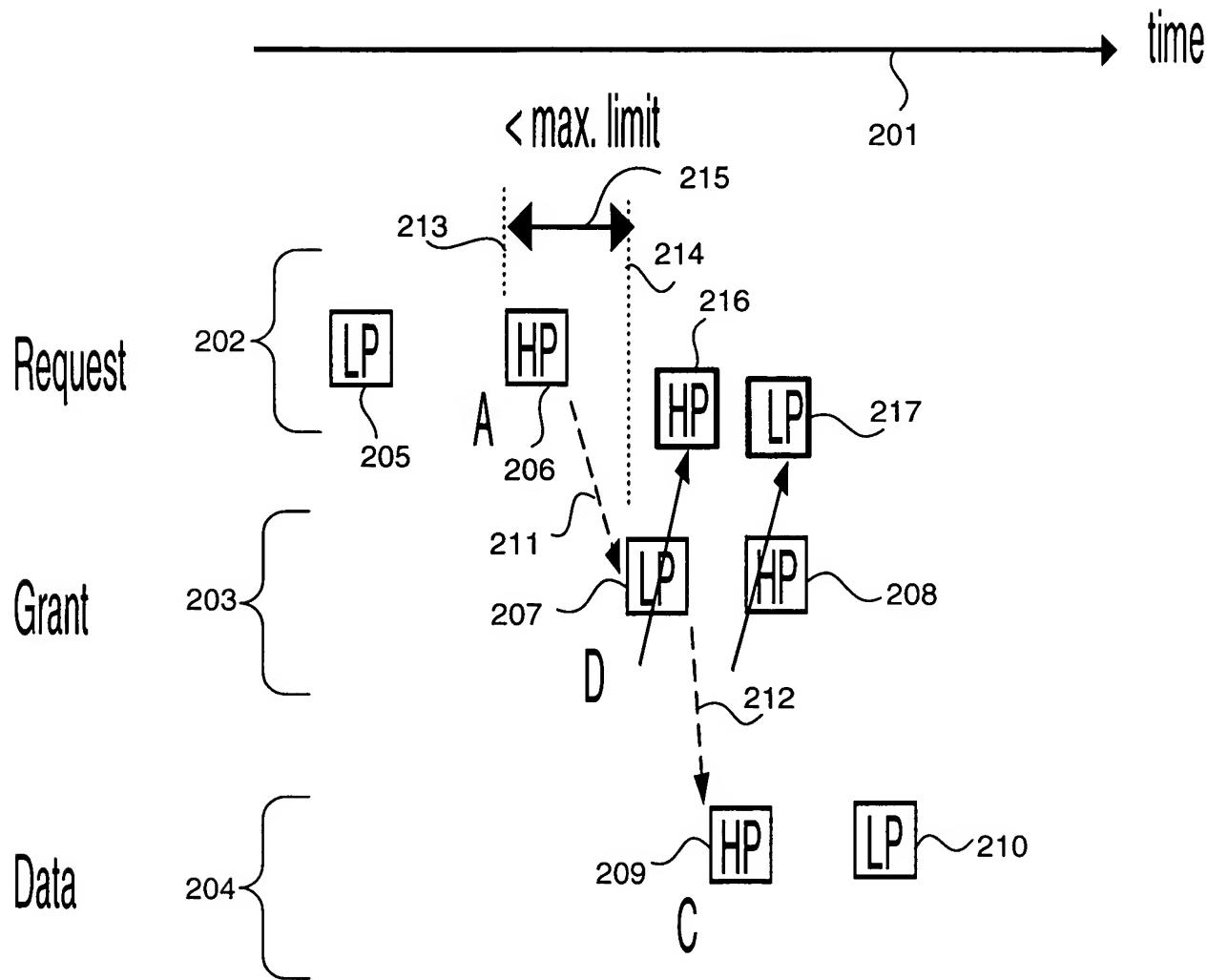
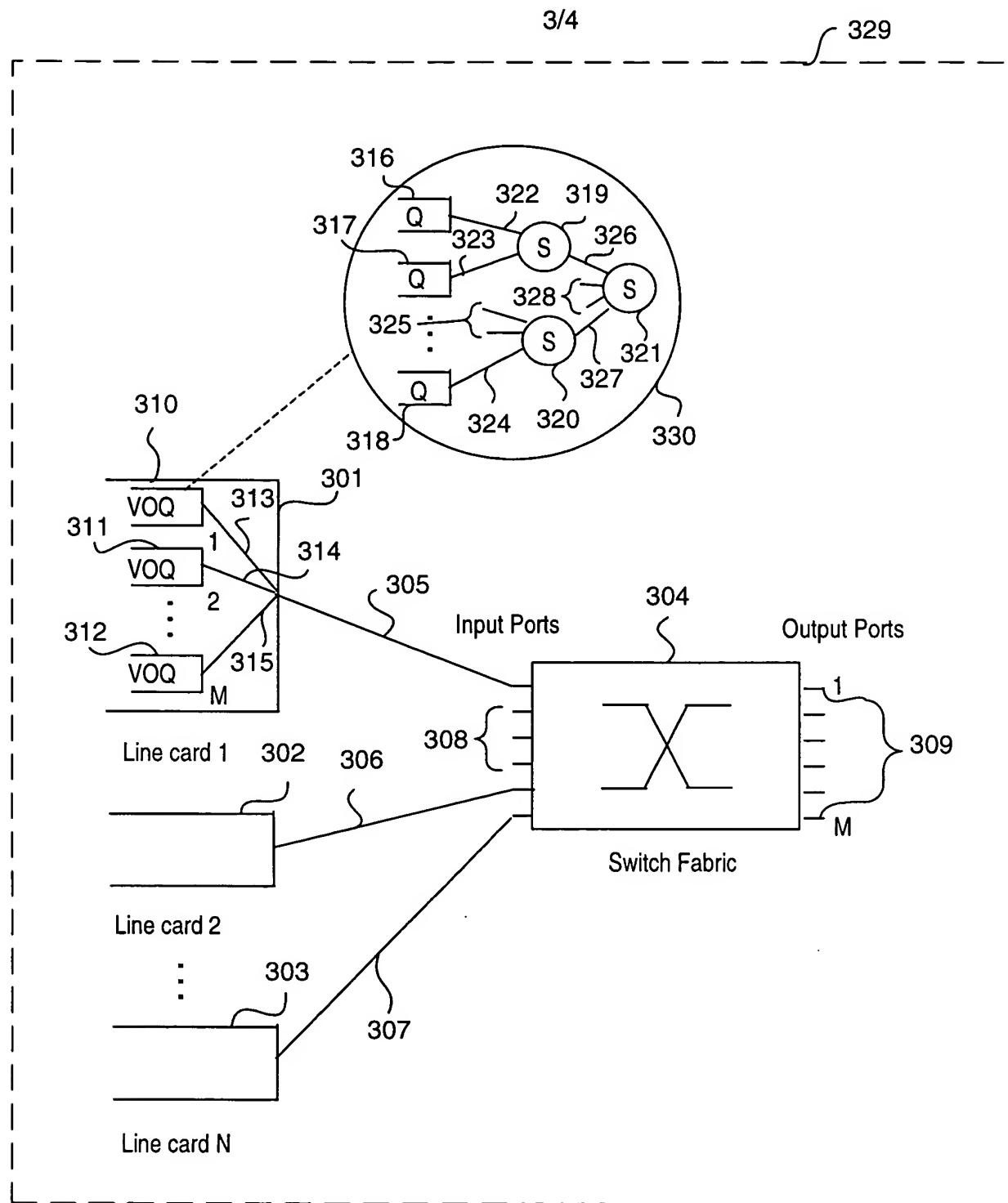


FIG. 2

**METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR REQUEST/GRANT PRIORITY SCHEDULING**

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**FIG. 3**

SENDING, TO THE SWITCH FABRIC BY A FIRST LINE CARD OF THE LINE CARDS, A FIRST REQUEST FOR TRANSMITTING A FIRST UNIT OF THE TRAFFIC OF A FIRST PRIORITY TO THE SWITCH FABRIC, THE FIRST REQUEST INDICATING A FIRST OUTPUT PORT FOR WHICH THE FIRST UNIT OF THE TRAFFIC IS DESTINED

401

USING, BY THE FIRST LINE CARD, A FIRST GRANT RECEIVED FROM THE SWITCH FABRIC PERMITTING TRANSMISSION OF THE FIRST UNIT OF THE TRAFFIC TO THE SWITCH FABRIC AND ISSUED IN RESPONSE TO A SECOND REQUEST MADE FOR A SECOND UNIT OF THE TRAFFIC HAVING A SECOND PRIORITY LOWER THAN THE FIRST PRIORITY AND BEING DESTINED TO THE FIRST OUTPUT PORT, FOR SCHEDULING TRANSMISSION OF THE FIRST UNIT OF THE TRAFFIC TO THE SWITCH FABRIC

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USING A SECOND GRANT ISSUED IN RESPONSE TO THE FIRST REQUEST FOR SCHEDULING TRANSMISSION OF THE SECOND UNIT OF THE TRAFFIC TO THE SWITCH FABRIC

403

**FIG. 4**